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**Request for Continued  
Examination (RCE)  
Transmittal  
(MAIL STOP RCE)**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. See the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application No.	09/721,141
Filing Date	November 22, 2000
Named Inventor(s)	
Neelamadhava Mahapatro	
Group/Art Unit	3623
Examiner Name	Irshadullah, M
Attorney Docket No.	06576-105039

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

**NOTE:** 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice. Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (mar. 20, 2000). 1222 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

**1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR § 1.116 previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. ☒ Attached
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply - Preliminary Amendment
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

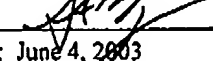
**2. Fees** (The RCE fee under 37 CFR § 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.)

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 11-0980.
- i. ☒ RCE Fee required under 37 CFR § 1.17(e) (\$740.00)
- ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 CFR §§ 1.136 and 1.17) If extension of time (eot) dated May 24, 2002 was entered, then current extension of time fee will be 920-400 = \$520; However, if the eot of May 24, 2002 was not entered, the current extension of time fee will be \$920.00.

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01 FC:1801 750.00 CH

**Signature of Applicant, Attorney or Agent Required**

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By:  Reg. No. 40,447  
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**Certificate of Transmission**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop RCE, Alexandria, VA, Attention: Examiner M. Irshadullah, GAU: 3623, Facsimile No. 703-872-9327, on June 4, 2003.

  
Steven P. Wigmore, Reg. No. 40,447